

## Information Sheet

R      Hall, Gertrude Scott.  
25      "History of Mine La Motte," 1939.  
         29 pages, typescript.

Gertrude Scott Hall's "History of Mine La Motte" was loaned for copying to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection by John P. Skaggs, president of the Madison County Historical Society. The typescript was formerly in the collection of the late Dr. W. Harry Barron of Fredericktown, Missouri.

Mrs. Hall is the daughter of William A. Scott, who was a director of the Mine La Motte Company in 1869. He sold his holdings to Rowland G. Hazard in 1870, but remained at Mine La Motte as manager until his death in 1879.

Both primary and secondary sources are cited in Mrs. Hall's history. She also drew on recollections of conversations with her father concerning the "Mansion House" at Mine La Motte.

Photocopy of a history compiled by Gertrude Scott Hall. Mrs. Hall is the daughter of William A. Scott, who was a director of the Mine La Motte Company (1869) and mine manager (1869-1879).

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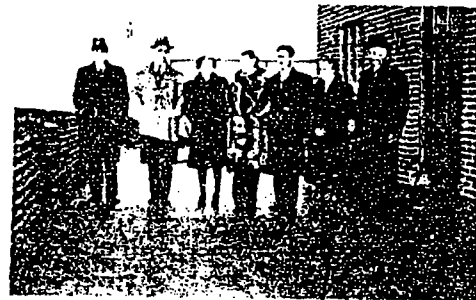
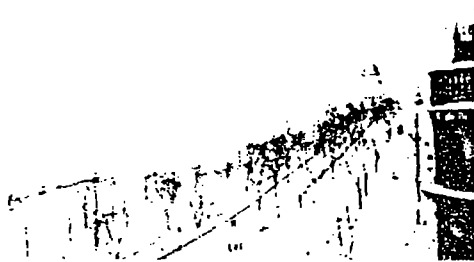


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Mrs. Hall

## EARLIEST HISTORY OF MINE LA MOTTE.

During the regency of the Duke de Orleans, for the young King Louis XVI, the brilliant victories of Louis XIV, in war and peace, began to show their after-effect in the demoralization of the country's finances and of the general economic and social conditions. Magnificent hopes had been entertained that the New France beyond the sea, founded under the auspices of the great King, would in the course of a few years become not only the home of a second French nation, more powerful and prosperous even than Old France, but also a mighty source of revenue for the depleted treasury of the King. As Spain had grown rich and powerful through the gold and silver of Peru and Mexico, so France must find the everflowing fountain of infinite treasure in the mines in the Mississippi Valley. As early as February 16, 1701, Father James Gravier wrote to Father Lamberville: "I do not know what the court will decide about the Mississippi if no silver mines are found, for it does not seek lands to cultivate. They have not yet found the mines they sought, they care little for those of lead, which are very abundant near the Illinois, and higher up on the Mississippi on the Scioux side."<sup>1</sup>

Yet the probabilities are that where lead is found silver may be near so the search was continued and especially directed to those localities that already enjoyed the reputation of being rich in lead and copper. It was well known that a network of Indian trails covered the wilderness and that some of these trails led to the neighborhood of mines. These

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1. Jesuit Relations, Vol. LXV. p. 173.

trails, as a rule, followed the river beds, or were strung along the ridges of the hills. So the Indians, who practiced mining on a small scale, could not keep their diggings from the knowledge of the white man. Some of the Indians were even prevailed upon to lead the white man to the national treasure houses of their race. Among the mines of lead thus discovered, Mine La Motte in Madison county, and the Mines of the Meramec<sup>2</sup> in Washington county, are the earliest and most important in the State of Missouri. It has often been a matter of wonderment that there was so much hearsay and so little authenticated history given in the accounts of these Missouri mines. Writers were not sure whether the Sieur de la Mothe Cadillac,<sup>3</sup> the first governor of the colony of Louisiana under the regime of the "Royal Company of the Indies," discovered Mine La Motte or only gave it his name, or whether, as Schoolcraft asserted, Mr. La Motte, a certain mining expert, who came with Renault some time between 1725 and 1740, was the discoverer and patron of Mine La Motte. A Resolution of Congress in 1900 fixes the date of Renault's grant in Madison county at about 1740, which is, of course, a wrong guess. At what period of time Mine La Motte was first worked, nobody seems to know; and whenever

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2. Meramec, also spelt Maramec, Maramet, and Miaramegoua, is an Algonquin word signifying "a good fish."
  3. The Sieur de la Mothe Cadillac's name is often given as La Motte Cadillac. Count Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, born 1656, and died 1730, was the French Colonial Governor of North America, and the founder of Detroit, in the early days called DeTroit. He came to America in 1683, lived first at Port Royal, then in Maine. He became the friend of the French Governor Frontenac and in 1694 was in command of Mackinac. In 1679, he went to France to push his plan for a fort on the DeTroit River and was successful, founding DeTroit in 1701. In 1711 he was appointed Governor of Louisiana, being recalled in 1716.

guesses are ventured they usually stop short of the reality. Even Houck<sup>4</sup> with all his conscientious research work maintains silence on a number of important points. There is no reason why the early history of our earliest mine or mines should still be wrapped in a haze of fact and fancy and that it should be so hard to discover what are the solid facts. Now in the first place, Mine La Motte is not the earliest mine of the Valley mentioned by contemporary writers. The mining district around Potosi and Old Mines at the headwaters of the Black river<sup>5</sup> <sup>201</sup> in Washington county are mentioned by the Jesuit Father James Gravier in his "Journal of a Voyage from the Country of the Illinois to the Mouth of the Mississippi:" "On the 10th day of October, 1700, after proceeding a league, we discovered the river Miaramigoua, where the very rich lead mine is situated, twelve or thirteen leagues from its mouth. The ore from this mine yields three-fourths metal."<sup>6</sup> Now this strange name, Miaramigoua, is the original form of Meramec, the south fork of which, called the Black river, comes from the region of the lead mines in Washington county. That these mines were not only known but worked prior to 1700, probably by whites, certainly by Indians, follows from the words of Father Gravier already quoted.<sup>7</sup> Yet, as he gives no details, we have none to

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4. Louis Houck, the distinguished author of the History of Missouri, is more at home in the Spanish than in the first French period of Missouri history, but even in this regard, his work is invaluable.
  5. This "Black River" is the first important tributary of the Meramec above its mouth.
  6. Jesuit Relations, Vol. LXV. p. 105.
  7. It is said that the reported wealth of these mines not only in lead but also in silver gave rise to John Law's great Mississippi Scheme.

offer for this early period. But after the beginning of the Eighteenth Century, we have a number of witnesses as to the circumstances of the discovery and development of the mines of Southeast Missouri.

The first prominent white man to set his foot on the soil of what is now called Mine La Motte was the Sieur Antoine de la Motte Cadillac, governor-general of the colony of Louisiana under the Royal Company of the Indies. La Motte Cadillac had done a good service in Canada, and distinguished himself by the foundation of Detroit, Michigan. This name is spelled La Mothe and La Motte. As the discovery of gold and silver mines was the chief object of his regime, he was easily lead on a wild goose chase to the Illinois country by one of the gallant gentlemen of the day, Captain Du Tisne, who in 1714 brought two specimens of silver ore to Dauphin<sup>202</sup> Island in Mobile Bay, which was then the seat of government. Du Tisne is said by good authorities, like Bernard La Harpe, to have convinced the governor that the specimens were found in the neighborhood of Kaskaskia, the chief town of the Illinois country.

Du Tisne came to Mobile at the end of 1714, and La Motte Cadillac started on his journey up the river at the beginning of 1715. Arriving at Kaskaskia some time during the spring of the year, the governor and his son and probably a company of gentlemen from Kaskaskia had themselves conducted by Tamarocas Indians across the river to the mouth of the Saline creek<sup>9</sup> where even at that time there was a small

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9. The Saline creek empties into the Mississippi about ten miles below Ste. Genevieve. The salt-spring here was visited by Penicaut in 1700.

who found an encampment of Frenchmen engaged in making salt on an island opposite the mouth of Saline. The valley of the Saline was the usual approach to the mining country at the headwaters of the St. Francois River. Penicaut, apud Margry, Vol. V, p. 407. Also Houck, Hist. of Mo., Vol. I, p. 230.

settlement of Frenchmen employed in making salt. The company proceeded up the Saline river on the well-beaten Indian trail and duly arrived at a place where innumerable diggings had been made by the Indians for the purpose of extracting the scattered chunks of lead. La Motte Cadillac set his workmen to dig a trench seven to nine feet deep until the solid rock was reached. The rock showed rich veins of mineral, but proved too hard for their primitive tools. Charlevoix,<sup>10</sup> in his History of New France, states that "De La Motte Cadillac had gone up to the Illinois, and on his return to Maubile it was announced that a silver mine had been discovered in the country whence he came." "In October," says La Harpe,<sup>11</sup> "M. LaMotte Cadillac returned with his son from the Illinois and brought various samples of rock." We have documentary evidence that Mine La Motte was not merely named so in La Motte Cadillac's honor, but was really visited by him in 1715, and accordingly considered his property by right of discovery.

Concerning this mine, Diron D'Artaguiette, writing in his Journal under date of April, 1723, at Fort Chartres, states: "From this salt-spring, on the left side of the Mississippi, going west fourteen leagues back, is the region of the Mines which M. de la Motte Cadillac, formerly commandant of the country, had opened up about the year 1715. Two

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10. History of New France by Charlevoix. Chapter III, p. 434.

11. Journal of La Harpe, p. 116.

leagues to the west of the Mine is a river called the St. Francois River. It is very beautiful. They claim that it is the same St. Francois River which has its mouth twenty leagues above the Arkansas."<sup>12</sup>

This testimony would seem to clinch the argument in favor of the Sieur de la Motte Cadillac's historical claim to Mine La Motte, and in disproof of Schoolcraft's imaginary mining engineer of Penault's Expedition to the Missouri mines. D'Artaguiette's conjecture as to the St. Francois river was correct. Not long afterwards the Sieur La Renaudiere explored this river up to its source near Mine La Motte, as he states in his "Account of the Mines of M. de la Motte and M. Maramet, August 23, 1723." Governor La Motte Cadillac was recalled March 9, 1717, to be succeeded by Bienville, the founder of New Orleans. With Bienville's reassumption of power, for he had been governor before, a new life seems to have come into the colony.

Among the documents in the National Archives of France for the Colonies at Paris, is one dated August 23, 1723, which bears the title, "Memoirs of the Mines of M. De la Mothe\* and M. de Maramet." \*(Mine la Motte.) Both of these are reports written, of course, in French in the year 1719. The writer was the Intendant, or civil governor of the Illinois country. He had with him the Sieur de Lochou, a gentleman "Skilled in mineralogy," two gentlemen from Kaskaskia, their five slaves, and an officer with six soldiers, two salt makers, and five savages, two of whom were the very same Tamarocas Indians who had conducted the son of M. de la Motte to the Mines. The sergeant (officer) also had visited

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12. Journal of Diron D'Artaguiette, 1722 and 1723, in Mereness. Travels in the American Colonies, 1690-1723.

the place with M. de la Motte in 1715. A translation of the whole report of this journey is in the Archives of the Missouri Historical Society.

I append a few passages as relating to Mine la Motte, in July of 1719.

205  
"1719, July the 10th, Kaskaskia.

Relation of the journey to the mines of the Illincis by Des Ursins.

#### DETAIL OF THE JOURNEY TO THE MINES.

On the 10th we made the workmen dig into the shaft which Mr. De la Mothe had made. It was only four feet deep; the rock was still untouched. We had with us the same savages who led there De la Mothe's son, with Mr. Bourdon and a sergeant from the company of Diron D'Artaguiette who had also been there.

There is a small layer of lead four feet below the surface of the ground which is yellow, intermingled with black, green gray and reddish; below it is a very hard rock, mixed with grains of lead, six inches thick; deeper down is another layer, three to four inches thick.

Under this rock is another which is mixed with lead, seven inches thick; it has black and green streaks; lower down we have found a layer of lead which, in the strongest part of the vein, is five inches thick. It runs from southeast to northwest and is mixed with yellow earth. Below this is a very heavy rock, which it has been impossible to pierce, because everywhere we met with veins and streams of water which we can stop only when we have the machinery required. Hardly had we gone down nine feet and a half, when the difficulty to penetrate forced us to dig another shaft to the southwest from the first one; there is a little creek which flows between the two shafts.

The first three feet of ground which we removed are strongly mixed

with lead; the earth is very black and heavy; then we found two feet of yellow earth also mixed with lead; then we found a layer of strong rock, hard and mixed with lead; deeper down we met with a layer of ground, black and yellow, mixed with pieces of lead; it was eight inches thick; then again we found a hard rock which we could not pierce and which ruined most of our tools; the water enters also into this one. The shaft of Mr. De La Mothe and ours are near each other.

On the 11th, Sunday (!) we commenced a shaft which is larger than the two preceding ones, 200 feet west of the last one, below a small elevation at the border of a little prairie; the earth to a depth of six feet is mixed with lead; it is black and heavy, mixed with yellow earth. We also found pieces of lead ore and silver ore, which we have tested right here.

On the 12th we worked on this shaft.

On the 13th, at a depth of seven and a half feet we found a layer of lead which at its narrowest was 8 inches wide. Also this vein runs from northeast to southwest. We then found a rock mixed with grains of lead; we broke it to the depth of two feet, without having been able to penetrate further, all the mining implements which we brought along having been ruined; the water comes in also there. It might be turned off by a ditch which could be run to the creek which flows along these mines and which seems to have enough fall, if the connection is made lower down. To do this we would need pumps.— In the center of this last shaft we found a very good vein similar to the one of which we have taken the samples, which we have tested and of which I send you samples sufficient to let you judge of its value yourself. We have cut this last shaft to a depth of ten feet.

You find similar mines everywhere, so to say, on the surface of the

earth. The savages have made an infinite number of holes from which they drew lead in this neighborhood where there is such an abundance of similar mines.— I believe, it would be better to dig two leagues from the Mississippi. The way to the mines is well-beaten; there are many mountains which all seem to be full of ore to judge from their resemblance to those which we have visited. On our return trip we would have searched them if we had had any utensils.

On the 14th we have finished our labor."

The above is part of the report of Des Ursins, dated July 10, 1719, at Kaskaskias. There is much more to this report, but as it is not related to Mine la Motte, I haven't copied it.

207

This expedition was made in July 1719. Then there followed a number of expeditions to other places on both sides of the Mississippi. But Mine la Motte was not forgotten. Our second document was written by the Sieur de la Renaudiere on August 23, 1723, shortly before his departure with de Bourgemont on the successful expedition to build a fort on the Missouri, and to make treaties with the Indian tribes along that great river. Renaudiere later on engaged in lead-mining on the Meramec, one of his places being called by the name "Cabanage de Renaudiere." He himself had the title "ingenieur pour les mines." Charlevoix says of him; "Neither he nor any of his company understood the construction of furnaces," which would explain their poor success.

Now let us hear what la Renaudiere himself has to say about the Missouri mines:

"Mr. la Renaudiere

August 23, 1723

Louisiana. Account of the mines of M. de la Motte, and M. Maramet, with the results which I have been able to reach from evidence which I have gathered from them. It is about fourteen leagues from Kaskaskia to the mines of M. de la Motte. In order to reach them one must cross the Mississippi to the Saline, and the lead mines run a half league east to west and are about five or six paces in width. In some places the mineral is only one foot below the surface, as one begins to dig, going down to the rock, where pieces of lead weighing from 20 to 30 oz may be found. The distance from the rock to the surface varies from seven to eight feet according to the spot that is opened. We have penetrated this rock about seven feet; the lead is disseminated in it. I worked it and found a little silver. In going further into the rock, it changes color. We found a quantity of stones of verdigris, which is a sure indication of the presence of copper, mingled with veins of lead one half a foot in thickness, by twenty feet in width. In certain places the mineral has been burnt by the fire from the center of the earth and is not worth melting. In locations where the veins are well-formed, the mineral is found to be good, and produces as much as from 40 to 45 per cent. One can extract, melt and, refine about 10,000 lbs. per month, by the work of eight workmen, working steadily. It can be delivered to the Illinois country, fourteen leagues distant, four by water and the rest by land. - - - - -

I shall renew my observations on my next trip and shall try to make some new discoveries.

At New Orleans this 23 of August 1723."

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Renaudiere adds some interesting details to Des Ursins' description of Mine La Motte, and introduces us to the new field of operations around the headwaters of the first fork of the Meramec river, sometimes called the Negro Fork, or the Black river. But the mining operations in both districts were carried on in a rather primitive way until the advent of Philip Renault and his company of two hundred artisans and workmen from France and five hundred negro slaves from San Domingo. As Louis Houck says:<sup>14</sup> "On the 14th day of June, 1723, Pierre Duque de Boisbriant and Marc Antoine de La Loire des Ursins, Intendant, granted to Philip Francois Renault 'a league and a half of ground in front upon the little "Maram<sup>210</sup>eig" and in the river "Maram<sup>210</sup>eig" at the place of the first fork, which leads to the cabins called the "Cabanage de Renaudiere", with a depth of six leagues, the river making the middle of the point of compass, and the small stream being perpendicular as far as the place where the Sieur Renault has his furnaces and then straight to the place called the "Great Mine." From this rather intricate passage we can conclude that Renault first occupied and improved the land and then asked for a grant and received it. The Meramec Mines in Washington county were, therefore, in operation prior to 1723. (These are not the La Motte Mines).

On May 27, 1723, the Journal of Diron D'Artaguette, written at Fort Chartres, has this item: "About one o'clock in the afternoon, M. Renault, director of mines, arrived here from the Meramec Mines where he went a month and a half ago to join the thirty or so Frenchmen who were working at getting out the ore. Sieur Renault keeps at these mines,

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14. History of Missouri by Houck. Vol. I, p. 281.

not without great expense, all Frenchmen, who have been there for more than six months. There are perhaps about six thousand pounds weight of lead melted down. These mines are situated to the northwest from Fort de Chartres, or ten leagues above. One enters the Little River de Maramek, which is dry for three-fourths of the year. After having navigated for about sixty leagues through very strong rapids, one lands and goes about five leagues inland. At this place is the mine where Sieur de Renault works. He has brought along some of the ore for the purpose of making some assays of it in our presence, to send by us to His Royal Highness, my Lord the Duke of Orleans."<sup>15</sup> "And again," writes Houck, in the same order, Renault also is granted "two leagues of ground at the Mine called Mine de M. La Motte, the front looking toward the northeast, the prairie of the said mine making the middle point of the two leagues."<sup>16</sup> This is the original title-deed to the great Mine La Motte estate in Madison county.

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There can be no doubt that even before that date Renault's men began to work the shafts made by La Motte Cadillac, and by Des Ursins, and also opened other shafts in the neighborhood; and that they continued to operate the mines on their own account after Renault returned to France in 1742. As Houck says, "It is probable that when Renault left for France, the most active and enterprising miners took possession of the mine, and that this possession may have ripened in the course of years into title."<sup>17</sup>

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15. Travels in the American Colonies, 1690-1783, by Mereness, p. 77.

16. History of Missouri by Houck, Vol. I, p. 281.

17. Ibid, p. 283.

A petition made in March, 1802, to the Spanish Intendant in New Orleans by Jean B. Pratte, Jean B. St. Jemme Beauvais, Jean B. Valle and Francois Valle, to have their claim to the Mine La Motte property confirmed to them, the statement is made, "that all the titles to the said several tracts lapsed in the year 1790," which would prove that no representatives of any of the owners or grantees of the mines had taken the trouble to work them for fifty years. Indeed, the Jesuit Father Vivier complains in 1750: "There are Mines without number but as no one is in position to incur the expense necessary for opening and working them, they remain in their original condition. Certain individuals content themselves with obtaining lead from some of these because it almost lies on the surface of the ground. They supply this country, all the savage nations of the Missouri and the Mississippi, and several parts of Canada."<sup>18</sup> Yet, even this complaint rather proves than disproves that Mine La Motte was worked continuously from Renault's days all through the Spanish Regime and the Louisiana Purchase. There was a brief intermission of mining in Mine La Motte during 1774 and 1775 on account of an Indian outbreak. "On April 7, 1774, at Mine La Motte," as Houck tells us, "Seven persons engaged in mining were killed by the Osage Indians..... Joseph Valle, a son of Don Francisco Valle, aged twenty-one years, was among those killed. The others were Jacques Parent, Auguste Chatal, and Menard, all <sup>2/2</sup> Canadians, Dupont, a native of France, an Englishman named Phillips, and a negro named Calise. From the Church Records of Ste. Genevieve it appears that

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18. Jesuit Relations, Vol. LXV, p. 105.

these victims of Indian warfare were reinterred in 1778 in the Catholic cemetery there."

The output of the Old Mines of La Motte as well as the nearby mines, was first taken out on pack horses to Fort de Chartres, later to Ste. Genevieve, almost opposite Fort de Chartres. When carried by pack horses, the lead was moulded into the shape of a collar and hung across the neck of the horse. On the ancient road leading from Mine La Motte to the river, lead moulded in this fashion was found when said road was dug up to make way for the new high-way. At a later period the metal was moved on two wheeled French carts called Charrettes.<sup>19</sup>

All indications, therefore, tend to show that mining operations continued at Mine La Motte from the days of Renault until the present day with more or less energy and but one brief intermission. The name and fame of Mine La Motte occupies a large part of the earliest history of Missouri. Long before St. Louis was thought of, even before Ste. Genevieve was founded on the bank of the river, Mine La Motte was known for its natural beauty and for its mineral wealth, and actually colonized by hardy miners from beyond the great river. For all practical purposes it was a dependency, a field of productive labor and a welcome hunting-ground for the French people of the Illinois. In some ways it was to them the mysterious west, full of hidden treasure, and of sudden dangers. Yet many of their own number had been up the Saline, the Meramec, and the Missouri rivers. And many of their own people were even then scattered

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19. History of Missouri by Houck, Vol. I, p. 378.

far and wide in the wilderness on the Missouri side. The records of their deeds and adventures may still lie buried in the French National Archives, many may never have been committed to writing. As Floyd C. Shoemaker says: "From the beginning of the Eighteenth Century the French had explored Missouri and her great river; had traded with the Indians; had mined lead; and perhaps made salt. In fact, it is not improbable, though not authentic, that a permanent settlement was made in Missouri in 1719 at the present town of Old Mines in St. Francois (Washington County)."<sup>22</sup> It need not surprise us that earlier settlements were not made. For one was made at the very opening of the Century on the northern bank of the River des Peres hard by the Mississippi's border, in 1700, and we may add that at the time Bourgemont built Fort Orleans at the junction of the Grand and Missouri rivers, there rose a settlement of French miners near the headwaters of the Saline called Mine la Motte.

Also the following facts concerning the history of Mine la Motte are authentic excerpts from "Land Claims" and "American State Papers." Land Claim No. 472, American State Papers, Vol. IV, p. 384.

"To the Senate and House of Representatives of the USA in Congress assembled:

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22. F. C. Shoemaker, "Six periods of Missouri History," Missouri Hist. Review, Vol. IX, p. 225.

Our sincere and deep thanks are due to Msgr. F. G. Holweck, the Librarian of the Catholic Historical Society of St. Louis, and Mrs. N. Beauregard, the Archivist of the Missouri Historical Society, for the valuable English renderings of French documents, and to Miss Stella Drumm, the Librarian of the Society, for the varied information from the priceless stores of the Jefferson Memorial Library at St. Louis, Mo.

76

The petition of Jean Baptiste Pratte, Jean Baptiste Valle, St. Gemme Beauvais, Joseph Pratte and Mary, his wife, in her right; Robert T. Brown and Catherine his wife, in her right; Francois Valle and Charles C. Valle; which said Mary, Catherine, Emily, Celeste, Francois and Charles, are the heirs and legal representatives of Francois Valle, deceased, humbly sheweth;

That shortly after the first settlement of the part of the province of Upper Louisiana under the French government included in the limits of Missouri, as early as the year 1720, it was discovered that a certain tract of country situated about 30 miles Southwest of the present village of Ste. Genevieve, in the said province, abounded in lead mineral, and in honor of M. de la Motte, the governor of this country, in the year 1713, being the first under the grant to Sieur Anthony Crozat, was called "Mine la Motte" by which name it has ever since been known."

That the French Government in order to encourage the discovery and working of lead mineral in that province, gave permission to some individuals to work and occupy portions of land of greater and less dimensions at Mine la Motte, these concessions have been transferred from one to another, sometimes by formal instruments of writing, sometimes by mere words, and now known but imperfectly by tradition from father to son, through one or more generations. In the year 1790 the whole of the Mine la Motte and the tract next to it was bought and vested in the before named Jean Baptiste Pratte; Jean Baptiste Valle; St. Gemme Beauvais; and Francois Valle. All the proprietors being ancient, respectable and faithful subjects of his Catholic Majesty, and one of them, Francois

Valle, being an officer in the government, and from the year 1798 till his death in 1804, the commandant, civil and military of the post of Ste. Genevieve. (Valle was buried in the church at Ste. Genevieve and the tombstone is near the altar in the new church.)

August Chouteau, Judge of Probate Court for St. Louis county, made the following statement "that when he first came to this Upper Louisiana in 1763, he found one of the Valles in possession and exploring the mine called Mine la Motte; that Valle in company with his son, to wit Valle Jr. continued to explore the said mine until the year 1769 at which time the said son of said Valle was killed by the Chickasaw Indians, which circumstances compelled the said Valle to abandon the said mine." Houck states that: "on the 7th of April 1774, seven persons engaged in mining were killed by the Osage Indians, undoubtedly the bloodiest massacre in Upper Louisiana during the Spanish regime.

Joseph Valle, son of Don Francois Valle, aged 20 years was among those killed. The others were Jacques Parent, aged 20; Auguste Chatel, aged 35; and Manard, aged 30 all Canadians, and Dupont, a native of France, aged 30, an Englishman named Phillips, aged 30, and a negro named Calise. From the church records at Ste. Genevieve, it appears that these victims of Indian warfare were reinterred in 1778 in the Catholic cemetery there. In 1798 a Louis Lacroix lived near the mine, but in 1804 he had left."

"But that, some short time after, the said Valle, went to the said mine and explored it. And was again attacked by the said Chickasaw nation, where in the attack, a man called La Bastille was burned by the said Indians, which circumstances occasioned said Valle to abandon again

said mine; and that some short time after the second attack to wit, as the affiant believes about 1780 or 1782, the said Valle went again to explore said mine; and that the said mine was explored by said Valle, and through or under him ever since without interruption. And this Affiant further saith that he is personally acquainted with John Baptiste Valle, John Baptiste Pratte, Gt. Gemme Beauvais and Francois Valle, and that he knows that they were under the Spanish government for a long time before the acquisition of this country by the United States, and he believes ever since in the possession of the aforesaid Mine la Motte, and that he has always understood they claimed title to the same, and their possession of the property and enjoyment of said land and mines, and of those claiming under them has been peaceful, quiet, undisputed, and uninterrupted to this day."

On the 15 day of October 1800 the four above named men sent a petition to Don Charles Dehault Delassus, the military lieutenant and lieutenant governor of Upper Louisiana telling him of their purchase of the lead mine share owned by Jean Datcherat, and praying forth the confirmation of their property and two leagues of land adjoining, for the purpose of supplying fuel for the smelting of the ore, and to enable them to prosecute the working of the Mine la Motte. They had asked for two leagues square or 28,224 arpens (French measure) equal to 24,010 acres.\*

However on Feb. 22, 1801, Delassus replied that he did not have the power to give the grant but because of their loyalty and distinguished services, he gave them permission to cut fuel.

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\* Arpent, an old French measure of land of about an acre; used in Louisiana and in French Canada.

On April 29, 1802, Rev. James Maxwell, curate of Ste. Genevieve, used his influence at New Orleans to secure a confirmation on the grounds that they were all devout Catholic subjects, but the Intendant Morales was removed and the assessor of the Intendant had died and the King had not appointed anyone to take his place, consequently Father Maxwell received no reply.

Antoine Soulard, surveyor general of the province of Upper Louisiana under Spain, was retained by the U. S. under Major Amos Stoddard (the first civil commandant after the change of government on April 30, 1803.) Soulard had his deputy surveyor, Nathaniel Cook, on Feb. 22, 1806, make a survey and plat of 28,224 arpens on the St. Francois including Mine la Motte for this group of citizens for the Treaty of cession between the USA and the French Republic, stipulated that the inhabitants of the ceded territory should be protected and maintained in the free enjoyment of their property. "What was formerly of no consequence is now the only resource of their declining years, and the support of their children and children's children, and the number of descendants of the four original claimants are 141. They have come under the Government of the USA without consultation and they trust that what they once claimed as their own, will not now be wrested from them."

Francois Janis Sr., upon oath saith that the descendants of Francois Valle (deceased) one of the claimants to the Mine la Motte, are 37; of St. Gemme Beauvais 53; of Jean Baptiste Valle 11; and J. Baptiste Pratte 40, making the 141."

At different times there were attempts to have the grant made

for this land and on the 27th of Dec. 1811, the USA refused to confirm more than one league square if it included a lead or copper mine or a salt spring, consequently they were put off again.

In October 1818 a Justice of the Peace of Ste. Genevieve named Thomas Oliver sent in papers to the Government among them he states that: "Auguste Abuchon of Ste. Genevieve was 72 years of age; John Baptiste Janis Sr. was 60 years of age, both men had resided in the Illinois country ever since birth and stated that in 1790 all the title in Mine la Motte was vested in J. B. Pratte; J. B. St. G. Beauvais; F. Valle; and J. B. Valle, also that during the Spanish ownership (they think about 18 years ago) these owned it."

Again on Oct. 24, 1825, before the Justice of the Peace Jos. D. Grafton, we find that Joseph Bogy took an oath that Mary Pratte; Catherine Brown; Emily Wilkinson; Celeste M. Allen; Francois Valle; Charles C. Valle are the heirs and legal representatives of Francois Valle (deceased) who was one of the claimants to the Mine la Motte situated in that part of the county of Madison formerly within the limits of Ste. Genevieve, Mo."

However, after nearly a hundred years of ownership by these families and descendants, it was March 21, 1839, that these heirs received their confirmation of this grant."

The old Mansion House, now standing in neglected condition at Mine la Motte, was built of Red Cedar Logs and strong as a fort. This old house was supposed to have been built by one of the men who took over the property, between 1790 and 1800, and was lived in until

about ten years ago. I have heard my Mother say that our Father built a brick addition in 1868, and when he did so, they had to chisel a door through "the cedar logs of the original house." She also told of his building a stairway from the porch to the upper floor, and enclosing a part of the porch to enclose it. The original stairs to the upper story had been a ladder, exposed to the elements.

Houck in his history of St. Genevieve, p. 252, said "Francois Valle fils, received a grant of land from Trudeau (Governor of Louisiana) of Mine la Motte in 1796, and began to work the mines in 1800; subsequently two leagues more were claimed by Jean Baptiste Pratte, Francois Valle, Jean Baptiste Vallé and St. James (written usually St. Gemme) Beauvais adjacent to this mine, and a grant was recommended by Delassus (Lieutenant Governor). A survey was also made and this title and claims were afterward confirmed."

This grant of land would be in the Archives of Louisiana, and written in Spanish, so I will accept Houck's statement for it. Louisiana was purchased by the United States in 1803. This section of Louisiana afterward became the state of Missouri, which was admitted into the Union in 1820. See deed from Martin Van Buren, ante.

Fredericktown is the county seat of Madison County, Missouri, in which mine la Motte is located. The earliest deed to be found there relating to Mine la Motte, is one entitled, "Confirmation by Act of Congress to Francois Valle, J. B. Pratte and St. Gemme Beauvais, which recites;- "St. Gemme Beauvais, in a marriage contract with his late wife, the mother of his ten children, made partition January 30, 1811." - - -

22

the recital of the division of this land is a genealogical gem. This land is part of that which eventually was owned by my father, William A. Scott, and his partner, Mr. Lockwood.

In the United States General Land Office at Washington, D. C., is recorded a confirmation of the deed to the four men named above. This is made by H. M. Garland, Recorder of the General Land Office Secretary. It is signed by Martin Van Buren as president of the United States, and recorded in Vol. IX, pp. 69 to 91 inclusive, dated March 31, 1839. This is a very long deed, which I will not copy in its entirety, but the excerpts from which will be of interest.

- - - - - "Whereas by the Act of Congress, approved the twenty-fourth of May one thousand eight hundred and twenty<sup>eight</sup>, entitled An Act confirming to Francis Valle and Jean Baptiste Valle, Jean Baptiste Pratte, and St. James Beauvais, or to their heirs or legal representatives, of the county of Madison, in the State of Missouri, certain lands confirmed to Francis Valle" (the other three and their heirs or representatives) - - - -  
"a tract of land not exceeding two leagues square, situated in the county of Madison, the State of Missouri, commonly known by the name of 'Mine la Motte' according to a field plat and survey, made by Nathaniel Cook, deputy surveyor of St. Genevieve, made on the twenty-second day of February, one thousand eight hundred and six," subject to the provisoes and conditions specified in the aforesaid Act; and Whereas there have been deposited in the General Land office, a Plat dated February eleventh, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, a survey of the said tract, by Jenifer T. Sprigg, as certified by the Surveyor General on the twenty-eighth of the same month. A deed of conveyance of the said claim, dated the sixth day of November,

one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, in favor of Lewis F. Linn and Evariste F. Pratte from William M. Newberry, Josias Berryman, Theodore F. Long, Caleb Cox and Henry Janis (Commissioners appointed by the Circuit Court of Madison County) "for the sale of the said claim, which said tract contains twenty-three thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight and two hundredths of an acre." (Gives its boundaries, which are marked trees and so many "Chains and links" in various directions, taking in certain Meridians and various township lines,) etc. "Now know ye that there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said Lewis F. Linn and Evariste F. Pratte, and their heirs, the tract of land described in the said Survey excluded there from the Survey of 640 acres for Rodolph Veriat, designated as number 980, on the township Plat in the General Land Office."

Evariste Pratte was the son of John Baptiste Pratte, and Lewis F. Linn married <sup>no</sup> Elizabeth (Vallé.) *Ruffe?*

On Nov. 11, 1839 (Found in Madison County Deeds- D. 85- is a deed of Trust) "For the entire Domain of Mine la Motte, to the Girard Trust Co. of Philadelphia- by the heirs of Charles C. Vallé, (all his daughters and their husbands, by name).

Lewis Field Linn, and his wife (Elizabeth (Vallé) *Ruffe*

Evariste F. Pratte, and wife (Sister of above)

Berthelemy St. Gemme (whose wife, now dead, was a Vallé)

Samuel Lamb, and wife Marguaretta

Elihu Chancy (had married a Vallé)

Thomas Fleming and wife Clarissa (Vallé)

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Thomas Fleming on 22 of October, 1844, consideration, \$25,000.00, purchased the interest of Evariste F. Pratte for 1/6 of the grant (Mine la Motte Domain). This is recorded in Warranty Deeds- E. 206, in Madison County.

Thomas Fleming buys the claims of several of the heirs, until up to 1855, he had nearly all the claims. His Will, (Madison County)- G. 514- February 15, 1855, shows heirs: Eliza Jane Adger and Robert Adger, Robert F. Fleming, Thomas Flinn Fleming, Clarissa A. Burt and Arthur Burt, Alfred W. Fleming, Thomas Holarley Fleming, and Margaret A. Fleming, all children of Thomas Fleming (Sr.).

On 22 of September, 1859, (Recorded Warranty Deeds H. 457). Several people of various names sell their interest in Mine la Motte domain to Thomas Fleming and Robert Fleming (sons of Thomas Fleming Sr.).

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A lot of other Vallé heirs sell their various holdings to John H. Fry- by 21 of October 1868. John H. Fry sells to James Murrin, of St. Louis, trustee for Radcliffe B. Lockwood, of New York. This deed of trust L-249, is dated October 21, 1868, and is 1/6 of 39/40 of Mine la Motte Domain. This also includes pine land in Madison County obtained from George Williams, Alfred L. Scott (brother to William Scott), Thomas A. Cavanaugh Jr. and wife.

John H. Fry and Margaret, his wife, buy up odds and ends of shares of Mine la Motte, and on 6 March 1869, John H. Fry and Margaret, his wife, convey the 1/6 of 39/40 of the Mine la Motte Domain, subject

to Deed of Trust, to R. B. Lockwood of New York and William A. Scott of Madison County, Missouri,- consideration \$75,000.00- (Recorded Warranty Deeds, Madison County, L 406).

July 8, 1869 (Deeds L 533)- Consideration \$544,615.00, Robert Fleming, Administrator of Thomas Fleming, deceased in 1855, sells interest of Thomas Fleming in and to the Mine la Motte Domain, being 5/6 of 39/40, omits the 16th section in each township, parts of which were included in the Survey of the said Mine la Motte tract.

Sept. 22, 1859, Robert Fleming, as Administrator of Thomas Fleming (deceased) sells 1/40 of Mine la Motte Domain, being interest acquired from Victor B. Mesplais and wife, and George L. Mesplais, of Fulton County, Illinois, to Radcliffe B. Lockwood, consideration \$14,375.00.

The Indenture dated 6 of May, 1869,- consideration \$75,000.00 is long and complicated. I have a copy but have not incorporated it in this history.

There is a deed (M-271) of date October 20, 1869, from the heirs and representatives of Thomas F. Fleming and Elihu Chauncy, perfecting the title to R. B. Lockwood.

In Deed Book M. p. 76 is to be found the Certificate of Incorporation of

"Mine La Motte".

"Be it known that we, Radcliffe B. Lockwood of Mine la Motte - - - William A. Scott, also of Mine la Motte - - - and Thomas Cantt of the city of St. Louis, Missouri, - - - - to form a body politic and corporate under the name and style of 'Mine La Motte Company' for the purpose of mining, smelting, reducing, refining and selling all minerals and ores upon any

part of the tract of land call the 'Mine La Motte' tract, containing 24,000 acres, more or less, lying partly in Madison County and partly in St. Francois County, Missouri. - - - - - The amount of the Capital stock of said Company shall be one million dollars, divided into ten thousand shares, each of which shall be of the price and value of one hundred dollars. The number of the Directors, who shall manage the affairs of the said company for the first year following the recording of this certificate, shall be three - - - -

Rowland G. Hazzard, a citizen of Rhode Island, residing in South Kingston, near Newport in that state.

William A. Scott, a citizen of Missouri, residing in Madison County at Mine La Motte.

Radcliffe B. Lockwood, a citizen of Missouri - (same as W. A. Scott)

Signed, Radcliffe B. Lockwood

William A. Scott

Thomas T. Gantt

- - - This 1st day of October in the year 1869, before me the subscriber a Notary Public appeared - - - etc. - - (naming the three).

Signed, Daniel Peterson,

Judge and Exofficio Clerk of the Probate Court  
of the said County.

- - - - - Filed 29 of October 1869 - - - (recorded- Deeds M. 76 at Madison County, Missouri)."

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Warranty Deed, M. 275- March 1, 1870.

Radcliffe B. Lockwood, William A. Scott, Adelaide M. Scott, convey their share in Mine La Motte Company to Rowland G. Hazzard, subject to two trust funds,- one to some of the heirs of Francois Valle, and one to some of the heirs of Thomas Fleming, and a mortgage held by Mr. Hazzard. After Rowland G. Hazzard took over the mine, my father continued as manager of the mine until his death in 1879, and Mr. Lockwood was for years associated with the management.

I visited Mine La Motte in 1893, and saw the old Mansion House, then in good repair. I went through the mines with an old man who had worked under my father. The same day of my visit, a new vein of lead was uncovered in a second level chamber of the mine, so they called it the "Scott vein." By various transactions Mine La Motte was absorbed by the St. Joseph Lead Company, which now operates Mine La Motte, but the old Mansion House is in a neglected and abandoned condition.

Children born to William and Adelaide Scott in the old Mansion House at Mine La Motte, were:

Josephine W. Scott

Adelaide Coltart Scott

William A. Scott

Jean Coltart Scott

Louise Morse Scott.